

# VLR SAFETY TAILGATE TALK

June 2017

*Subject: For the "Spotter"*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Location (garage, mm, etc...):

Instructions:

Safety Coordinators & Supervisors should use this Tailgate Talk as a guide for discussion during their safety meetings. The primary purpose of the safety meetings is to give crews the opportunity to discuss any safety related concerns they may have.

Once the meeting has concluded, the Presenter should have each employee sign this form and include their Employee ID# in the spaces below.

TGT Presenter: \_\_\_\_\_

Name	Employee
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A spotter is a person designated to observe and direct equipment operators and drivers in order to maintain a safe working area. A spotter can have no other job duties while working as a spotter.

Spotters are used to direct drivers/equipment operators who do not have a full view of the working area. (V)OSHA requires the use of spotters to signal backing vehicles with obstructed rearview and no backup alarm. (V)OSHA requires signaling by spotters for backing earthmoving or compacting equipment with obstructed rearview and no backup alarm. Spotters should be used to monitor an excavation for possible underground obstructions. (V)OSHA requires that underground installations be located prior to digging AND that only safe and acceptable means be used to find the exact locations. (V)OHS A requires a competent person inspect each excavation before the start of each shift and throughout the shift as needed. Using spotters can help prevent workers from being "STRUCK-BY" or "CAUGHT-in-or-BETWEEN" equipment and other objects, two of the leading causes of deaths and injuries on construction sites.

### Use a Spotter When:

- Entering into or moving a vehicle or machinery within a congested area.
- Visibility is poor.
- Moving equipment or materials in close proximity to an excavation.
- Excavating when underground obstructions are present and if there is the possibility of unknown obstructions. (V)OSHA requires that the estimated location of underground utilities or other underground installations be determined before excavation begins. If the exact location of the underground utilities cannot be established, excavation can proceed provided that acceptable methods to locate underground utilities are used.)
- Pedestrians, coworkers, vehicular traffic, or other contractors are on or in the work area or roadways.
- Overhead power lines, overhead obstructions and other obstructions presenting a hazard.

*Continued.*

### **Spotter Responsibilities:**

Per (V)OSHA requirements, the spotter should be positioned to have a clear view of the areas the operator/driver cannot see AND to not be in harm's way. Usually behind the equipment or vehicle, in view of the driver/operator by mirror.

Allow for sufficient stopping distance & clearance.

Use hand signals or other appropriate communication (air horns, whistles, and radios). Because of noise, a voice signal may be unheard or misunderstood.

Always use the same signals for the same moves to avoid misunderstandings. All signals must be planned, reviewed and agreed to before operation.

Monitor excavation activities to avoid underground obstructions that known or unknown.

Always be visible to the operator; if you can't see the operator, the operator can't see you.

If you need to pass through an operator's blind spot, make sure the operator understands your actions.

Always stay focused, avoid distraction, and refrain from the use of cell phones, texting, and two-way radios unless radios are used to communicate with the operator, while spotting.

Always make eye contact with the operator before communicating signals.

**Spotters and equipment operators must work together!**

Special thanks to OSHA Alliance for research material.